

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
Serial No. 09/957,395
Page 2 of 11

In The Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making an optical waveguide, comprising providing a substrate comprising a semiconductor layer disposed on a first insulating layer;
forming an opening through said semiconductor layer to said first insulating layer;
depositing a core material on said first insulating layer to fill filling said opening ~~with a core material~~;
removing excess core material; and
depositing a top cladding layer over the core material.
2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said semiconductor layer comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of silicon, silicon-germanium, gallium arsenide, indium gallium arsenide and indium phosphide.
3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said semiconductor layer is silicon.
4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3 wherein said first insulating layer and said top cladding layer are of silicon oxide, each layer having a different refractive index.
5. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein excess core material is removed by chemical mechanical polishing.
6. (Currently Amended) A method of making an optical waveguide, comprising:
providing a substrate comprising a semiconductor layer disposed on a first insulating layer;

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Serial No. 09/957,395

Page 3 of 11

depositing a silicon oxide layer over a silicon nitride layer on said semiconductor layer;

depositing a masking layer on said silicon oxide layer;

masking and patterning an opening in said masking layer;

etching through the silicon oxide and silicon nitride layers to form a hard mask;

etching an opening in said semiconductor layer to the first insulating layer;

depositing a core material on the first insulating layer to fill ~~filling~~ said opening with a core material;

planarizing the core material ~~to remove said silicon oxide layer~~;

removing said silicon oxide layer and etching said silicon nitride layer; and

depositing a top cladding layer having a different refractive index than the core material.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein said semiconductor layer is silicon.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein said substrate further comprises a second insulating layer having the first insulating layer disposed thereon.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~further comprising: wherein~~ said substrate further comprises:

a second insulating layer having the first insulating layer disposed thereon.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the second insulating layer and the first insulating layer are comprised of the same material.

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Serial No. 09/957,395

Page 4 of 11

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the second insulating layer is comprised of glass.
12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the second insulating layer is comprised of silicon oxide.
13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 further comprising:
a bottom cladding layer disposed in the opening and having a refractive index different than the top cladding layer.
14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 13, wherein the bottom cladding layer is comprised of glass.
15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the core material forms an optical waveguide cladded by the first insulating layer and the top cladding layer.
16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6 further comprising:
conformally depositing a bottom cladding layer in said opening having a different refractive index than said core material.
17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein the bottom cladding layer is silicon oxide.
18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein the step of planarizing further comprises:
removing a portion of the bottom cladding layer.

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Serial No. 09/957,395

Page 5 of 11

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the first insulating layer is comprised of at least one of glass or silicon oxide.

20. (Cancelled)